

## **STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 47**

### *Department of Energy Spent \$8.3 Million to Create ZERO Jobs*

- A recent headline in the *New York Times* rhetorically asked if it were possible for a Stimulus project to not create any jobs. The answer, according to the inspector general at the Department of Energy, was yes.
- Under the Democrats' Stimulus, \$3.1 billion in grants were authorized for state energy programs, of which \$126 million was allocated for Florida. The authorization required states to spend the money by April 2011, and ensure that the funds be spent on preserving and/or creating jobs, saving energy, and increasing renewable energy.
- However, instead of preserving or creating jobs, Florida used \$8.3 million of their funds pay off a backlog of people who already completed work for the state. Because the projects had already been completed, the money literally created ZERO jobs. Yet, somehow the Department of Energy still approved the spending, breaking the very rules they required for the program.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$8.3 million in taxpayer funds would not have been spent on reimbursing already finished projects creating ZERO jobs. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:** <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/06/10/a-stimulus-package-with-no-jobs/>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website:  
<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.